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# Rechargeable Batteries/Chargers

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Department of Natural Resources

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The Indiana Greening the Government Incentive Funding Program

Submitted to:

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402 W. Washington St., Rm. W-478

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Indiana Department of Natural Resources



## **Brief Project Description:**

The Department of Natural Resources distributes 109 pagers to staff in the Indianapolis Government Center. We also provide 388 pagers for employees at the DNR properties across the state. Each of these pagers operates on either AA or AAA sized batteries that need to be changed (depending upon use) approximately once a month. Conservatively, just in Central office, the Department generates 2616 batteries each year that are thrown away. Some may bring the used batteries to a recycling station, but the vast majority are simply discarded. This project was designed to not only significantly reduce the use of the single-use battery, but also increase the instances of recycling old batteries.

The Department purchased, with the grant funding, seventeen battery chargers and a supply of rechargeable AA and AAA sized batteries. Five of the chargers were maintained in Divisions within the Government Center Complex and twelve were dispersed to the Department's properties that consistently received a 100% Safety rating (just as a sign of appreciation for their consistently good Safety rating).

- Project Dates: August 2003 - present
- Location: Indiana Government Center South, Room W-256, Indianapolis, IN
- Contact: Ric Edwards, Director of Safety, Training and ADA Compliance, 232-4145
- Program Results: Initially some of the units were not used as frequently as I would have liked. It does take buy-in from the users for these to work effectively. But once people get used to switching the drained batteries for re-charged ones, the benefit is realized. Some claimed the recharged batteries were not as strong, long-lasting as standard batteries (and for cheaper rechargeable batteries this is true. However, as we were made aware of this before purchasing the batteries, by getting the more expensive/reliable batteries, we avoided this. We will be determining where the chargers are not being kept in use and consider shifting to areas where interest has been expressed. To be effective, this program requires ongoing vigilance.

"They seem to be doing fine. I have one in my pager even as I type this. Has also been used in a mini-mag light by one of our patrolman last year." Shades Park Property Manager

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